

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-56 Canceled

57. (New) A server in a client-server environment to receive messages from a client with user interface and messaging system, the user's message to request one or more actions to be taken by a server, the server comprising:

- a communications unit to receive the message from the client;
- a parser to detect one or more keywords in the message, the keywords to select one or more connector files that specify actions to be taken by the system by interacting with one or more external data servers accessible to the system;
- an action logic to perform the actions specified in the connector files by interacting with the external data servers in accordance with their individual interface requirements; a filtering mechanism to extract information received in responses from the external data servers and assembling a response message for the user; and a sending unit to transmit the response message back to the client via the communications units of the server.

58. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the communications unit further receives a formatted response to the request message, and the user interface further presents requested results and information to the user.

59. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the user interface further provides feedback to the user upon detection of the one or more keywords, indicating that an action will be taken in response to the keywords.

60. (New) The system of claim 59, wherein the feedback is provided immediately when a character is entered that completes a keyword.

61. (New) The system of claim 59, wherein the feedback is provided upon entry of a delimiter character indicating the completion of the entry of a word.

62. The system of claim 59, wherein the feedback is provided after the message request is dispatched.

63. (New) The system of claim 57, further comprising the user interface to prompt the user as to the specific action to be taken in response to the keyword detected in the message.

64. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the user enters information in a pre-defined format for inclusion in the user-supplied text.

65. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein the format includes specific fields when multi-field data is to be included in the request.

66. (New) The system of claim 65 wherein the system, in response to detection of a keyword, provides guidance to the user to enter the fields appropriately to be included in the request.

67. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the request message sent by the client messaging system comprises one or more of the following: some of the message entered by the user, other information extracted from the system specific to the user, and context information obtained from the client portion of the system.

68. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the actions utilize data from one or more of the following: the message entered by the user, additional message content data in pre-stored connector files, additional information extracted from the system specific to the user and context data.

69. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the user request is received as a text message.

70. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the user input comprises a speech input mechanism, and the system further comprises a speech-to-text converter.

71. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the action logic executes one or more of the following actions: posting information to an external database, querying an external database, querying an external Web page, posting to an external Web page, and combining information fetched from sources internal or external to the system with data contained in the

message received from the client and depositing the result into one or more external destinations.

72. The system of claim 71, where the action logic executes several actions in sequence in a multi-step response to the action message entered at the client.

73. The system of claim 72, where the action logic completes the actions of logging the user in to an external data server requiring password access, and then completing the action called for by the action message entered at the client.

74. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the response is placed in a format appropriate for the user's display device.

75. (New) The system of claim 57, further comprising:  
a communication unit to send the response to a destination specified in the original request message.

76. (New) The system of claim 57, further comprising a list of connector files to invoke various actions, a connector file having an access list assigning to individual users or groups access to particular connectors.

77. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the individual user may add aliases for keywords, which aliases are subsequently operative as keywords for that user.

78. (New) A client-server system with a client with user interface and messaging system, the user's message to request one or more actions to be taken by a server, the client further comprising:

a parser to detect one or more keywords in the message, the keywords to select one or more connector files that specify actions to be taken by the server by interacting with one or more external data servers accessible to the server;

a messaging unit to transmit messages to the server based on the contents of the user's message and the selected one or more connector files, the messaging unit to receive a response generated by an action logic in the server which performs the actions specified by the connector files, the response assembled by a filtering mechanism within the server.

79. (New) The system of claim 78, wherein the client connectors are downloaded from a central connector catalog.

80. (New) A messaging system comprising:

a database of keywords, each keyword having an associated connector file;

a user interface to receive a user input including a message including one or more keywords to request one or more interactions with external data servers to be taken by the system;

a parser to detect the one or more keywords in the message;

a messaging unit to assemble a request message based on the message; and

a communications unit to transmit the request.

81. (New) The messaging system of claim 80, further comprising:

a central database of connector files, each connector file associated with a keyword, users downloading the connectors from the central database;

a user interface to enable a user to edit, add, and delete keywords associated with downloaded connectors.

82. (New) A messaging system comprising:

a user interface to receive a user input including a message, the message to request one or more interactions with external data servers to be taken by the system;

a messaging unit to assemble a request message based on the message, the messaging unit further to add additional information to the request message;

a parser to detect one or more keywords in the message, the keywords to select one or more connector files that specify actions to be taken by the system by interacting with one or more external data servers accessible to the system;

an action logic to perform the actions specified in the connector files by interacting with the external data servers in accordance with their individual interface requirements;

a filtering mechanism to extract information received in responses from the external data servers and assemble a response message for the user; and

a sending unit to transmit the response message back to the user.

83. (New) The messaging system of claim 82, wherein the additional information comprises information extracted from the user's system.

84. (New) The messaging system of claim 80, wherein the additional information comprises context information, such as: location and time of day.